This is Phoenix Member, Barbara Doherty’s 19 year old Java Macaque. What a handsome guy!
Welcome from President - Jeanne Hall

My name is Jeanne Hall, I am the President of Phoenix Exotic and would like to brief you on what to expect in our monthly newsletters. The newsletter is for our members who do not have convenient access to our website. We want to reach out and make Phoenix Exotic accessible, including in our newsletter information from our e-list for members who are currently not online. Enjoy!

The stated purpose of Phoenix per the articles of incorporation:

“…for charitable educational and scientific purposes; to educate the public in the necessary safety precautions and procedures for dealing with exotic wildlife; and to provide emergency assistance to exotic wildlife in need of care or relocation.”

“Phoenix Exotic Wildlife Association, Inc. is based in the UNITED STATES of AMERICA and addresses concerns within the USA and internationally. Phoenix Exotic Wildlife Association is incorporated in the state of Washington as a non-profit corporation.”

“Phoenix is dedicated to the legal and ethical ownership of exotic animals by private persons with an emphasis on education and safety. Phoenix Exotic Wildlife Association Inc. is an organization of active members working to protect and maintain the

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Letter From Editor - Rhonda Kiker

WELCOME!

This newsletter is a derivative of the articles and posts from the Phoenix Exotic Wildlife Association, Inc. E-List. (http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Phoenix_Exotics/) Many thanks to the members for their contributions. Any published submissions have been granted prior permission for publication. Should you feel that your names have not been properly represented, please email, General@PhoenixExotics.Org or President@PhoenixExotics.Org, or you may write a letter to the address below. Please be descriptive as to which article and please reference “Volume Number” and “Issue Number”, located on the front of the newsletter. If you wish to see any of our past copies of the newsletters, you may go to website, http://www.PhoenixExotics.org/

Our thanks goes to the “Associated Press” for granting a non-exclusive license to reprint materials online for the purpose of this newsletter. Phoenix Exotic Wildlife Association, Inc., membership fee is only $10.00/annually. A check or money order can be mailed along with any inquiries you may have.

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Membership & Membership Renewal Form

Name(s)_________________________ Phone__________ Dues ________ x $10 ________
Mailing Address_________________________ Total enclosed: ________
E-Mail Address_________________________
I would like to join and support the Phoenix Wildlife Association. I understand that dues are for membership only and non-refundable.
Signature_________________________ Second Signature ________________________
I would like to announce that the long awaited DVD master copy has arrived of the 2006 Phoenix Exotic Annual Meeting that was held in Las Vegas, Nevada. The meeting is available in DVD or VHS format. This has turned out terrific and is 9 hours long! The DVD and VHS case is beautifully done with the Phoenix Exotic Logo, the theme of the meeting is “SOLUTIONS” and where the meeting was held, nicely done!! A "Wanna get this" for sure!!

For all those that want to order a DVD (2 discs) or VHS (2 tapes for better quality) we have tried to keep the cost to a minimal and as close to cost as possible. We are only sending in orders of 10 or more at a time in order to help keep the cost down.

To order:

- DVD's: $19.95 + $4.95 for shipping and handling
- VHS: $25.95 + $4.95 shipping and handling
(check or money order)

Payable to: President@PhoenixExotics.org
Please note: please add $2.00 extra if ordering through paypal for paypal fees.

Please include:
- Name and address
- Number of copies
- Amount sent
- E-mail address or telephone number in the event we need to get in touch with you.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at cathspohrer@metrocast.net

Cathy Freeman-Spohrer
Secretary, Phoenix Exotics
Maryland May Ban Exotic Animals As Pets (HB 704)
Submitted by (bigcats10) Sun Apr 30, 2006

ANAPOLIS (AP)- A bill awaiting the governor’s signature would ban ownership of exotic pets. The General Assembly passed the legislation this month outlawing pets such as wolves, primates and big cats. Lawmakers debated the ban for more than a year. Opponents argued that the ban would punish responsible animal owners. If the governor signs the bill, Maryland would join a growing list of states with exotic pet bans pushed by the Humane Society of the United States. Maryland already considers bears, raccoons, foxes and skunks off-limits as pets. Pets on the new list owned before May 31 would be exempt from the ban, though owners would have to notify animal control officials about their pets by August.

KS: Governor signs ban into law
Submitted by (rrooney) Tue Apr 18, 2006

(AP) TOPEKA, Kan. - Gov. Kathleen Sebelius signed into law Monday one bill prompted by a tiger killing a teenager and another measure resulting from the beating death of a Yorkshire terrier.

The new law requires owners of exotic animals to keep them confined so they can’t come in contact with people, and also makes it illegal to allow such animals to "run at large."

"Wild animals are just that - wild," Sebelius said in a statement. "They need to be handled by trained professionals only."

The measure was prompted by the August 2005 death of Haley Hilderbrand, 17, a Labette County High School senior bitten by a Siberian tiger while posing next to the animal for a class photo at the Lost Creek Animal Sanctuary in Mound Valley, southwest of Parsons.

It also makes it illegal after Oct. 1 to own a dangerous animal without having a U.S. Department of Agriculture license, and owners must carry $250,000 worth of liability insurance.

The other new law is the result of efforts by humane societies and pet lovers for years to make animal cruelty a felony rather than a misdemeanor. It was first inspired by the case of Scruffy, the terrier beaten and burned to death in Kansas City, Kan., in 1997.

Dubbed "Scruffy's Law," it requires those convicted of animal cruelty to serve at least 30 days in jail and pay a fine from $500 to $5,000. In jail, they must have a psychological evaluation and complete an anger management course.

Unintentionally neglecting an animal would remain a misdemeanor, although a second conviction would mean a minimum of five days in jail. The bill doesn't apply to the extermination of insects, rats or other pests or the slaughter of livestock.

Interest intensified this year because of the death in August of Magnum, a mixed-breed puppy found in a Wichita trash bin, wrapped in wire with cuts, a broken leg and chemical burns. Magnum died from his injuries.

Both laws take effect July 1.

Phoenix Exotic Book Series
Submitted by (cathyspohrer) Tues May 16, 2006

Just a while back, I received quite a few stories on many different exotic animals. ranging from horses, ferrets, and minks to domestic fur balls to be used in the third in a series on exotic and domestic animal private ownership by Phoenix Exotic Wildlife Association.

Phoenix Exotics has already published two books in the ongoing Phoenix Exotics Book
Series on responsible private ownership of exotic and domestic animals. It is important to remember that not only are we all trying to educate the public on exotic and domestic private ownership, but also by contributing your story, your animal become history in a book, never to be lost!

It is time to get our third book in the series out to the public. Which ever animal stories I get the most of will be the next in line to be published.

Get busy, it don’t take long to get your stories to us! Two to three pages long and a good picture or high resolution picture of your animal are all it takes.

For additional information or to submit your picture and story please contact: cathspohrer@metrocast.net

The AR rule
Submitted by (rrooney) Sat May 6, 2006

How they win:

Compromising by splitting the difference may solve many immediate problems by creating bigger long-run problems. Splitting the difference rewards the side with the most extreme and most intransigent position, guaranteeing continuing unreasonable demands and the continuing strife this generates.

- Thomas Sowell

SC: PETA spying on Ringling - again
Submitted by (rrooney) Tue Apr 18, 2006

(AP) GREENVILLE, S.C. - City officials have launched an animal abuse investigation into the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus after viewing video made when the circus stopped in Greenville in February.

The People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals made the video and brought it to the city’s attention.

No charges were filed Monday, assistant city attorney Debra Gammons said.

"At this stage we will have to investigate and meet with our animal control officer," Gammons said. "We saw a videotape showing one of the employees using a bull hook and also saw a videotape of one elephant that had a stiff left leg."

PETA said it plans a news conference Tuesday in Greenville with video showing a trainer "abusively hooking" elephants with a steel-tipped bull hook and forcing a crippled elephant to perform.

"Ringling is careful to hide its routine abuse of animals from the public," PETA Director Debbie Leahy said in a press release Monday. "But this video footage proves that bull hooks have only one purpose - to cause pain - and that a life in chains leaves crippling disabilities. We urge the city to act to stop elephants' suffering when they are on Greenville soil."

Crystal Drake, a spokeswoman for Ringling Bros., said the circus knows nothing of an investigation or the tape PETA says it has.

"We certainly welcome the opportunity to look at" the tape, Drake said. "In the past, PETA has filmed hours and hours and hours of tape at Ringling Bros. and lots of other places and never found anything that’s negative or inappropriate."

Drake said the circus has never been found in violation of animal welfare laws anywhere it has operated and welcomes an investigation.

"We certainly have nothing to hide," she said. "We do not tolerate abuse. We love our animals. They are the stars of our show and we treat them that way.
IN: Buyout plan for wild animals sanctuary falls through
Submitted by (Raven) Thu May 4, 2006

(AP) ALBION, Ind. - An animal sanctuary needs a new home for its 86 wild tenants after efforts to buy the property where it has been for two decades failed.

Black Pine Animal Park must move before October from its Noble County site, said Mark Thaler, president of the sanctuary's board of directors.

Brad Bonar, who co-founded the park and lives on the property about 30 miles northwest of Fort Wayne, had offered to sell the land to the board for $411,000. Bonar said last month the sanctuary's insurance company would no longer cover the park if someone lives there with its bears, tigers and other wild animals, prompting the offer.

Board members made a counteroffer, but it was rejected and officials have decided to relocate, Thaler said. The insurance on the current park expires Oct. 1.

The nonprofit park plans to open for the season on Saturday.

Officials have been planning an expansion for years and had scheduled a fundraising campaign to begin May 7 with an appearance by animal expert Jack Hanna at the Scottish Rite Center in Fort Wayne.

The fundraiser will now have an added sense of urgency, Thaler said.

"We've had (expansion) in our long-term plans for many years, but this will be short-term notice, so we'll have to put it together in a few months," he said.

Moving to a new site, however, could mesh well with the expansion plans, he said.

Sanctuary officials plan to meet with the Albion Town Council on Tuesday to discuss buying or leasing property at Hidden Diamonds Park, a 48-acre city park. The current animal park has only 12.5 acres.

Thaler said organizers were also willing to consider to other sites.

Kentucky Family Fights to Keep Pet Lion
Submitted by (Bigcats10) Thu May 18, 2006

By SAMIRA JAFARI, Associated Press Writer

MELVIN, Ky. - Amid a backdrop of colorful swing sets, clunky cars and giggling kids, a beast with a thick mane and daunting eyes paces in his cage. To some around this small Appalachian town, he's a frightening menace. To others, he's the local mascot, a novelty. But to the Collins family, he's "Kitty," their beloved pet lion. "That's my kid," said 22-year-old Melissa Collins, a married mother of three, as she pet Kitty through his 300-square-foot chain-link cage.

County officials may try to force the Collins family to find a new home for Kitty soon, though the family says it will fight the effort.

A county ordinance that would bar animals deemed "inherently dangerous" by the state is up for a vote Friday. If it passes, Kitty would no longer be allowed to stay in this rural neighborhood, where homes are within a few yards of each other.

Pauline Hall, who lives three houses down from the Collins family, said she lives in fear of the lion. "I think it needs to be in a different environment," Hall said. "Everybody here keeps their guns loaded."

A Kentucky regulation that went into effect in July prohibits transporting animals labeled
inherently dangerous by the state Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, such as vipers, alligators, bears, tigers and lions. But folks like Barry and Melissa Collins, who owned dangerous animals before the rule went into effect, are allowed to keep them, said Laura Patton, a state wildlife biologist. Bringing in more dangerous animals or breeding the ones they already have is still against the rules. The state does not have a law that specifically deals with the ownership of exotic wildlife, she said. Large exotic cats, such as lions, tigers or leopards, make up a small number of the transport permits each year. The vast majority are for reptiles, such as anacondas, basilisks and bearded dragons.

The federal government only requires licenses for exotic animals if they are used for breeding or as an exhibition, so it was unclear how many people are keeping exotic animals as pets.

The Collinses said they were caught by surprise when the ordinance was proposed. They said they've heard a handful of complaints since they brought the lion home, but nothing serious. "He's not bothering nobody," said Barry Collins. "Why take him from where he's happy and put him where he's not?"

When asked whether he considers his lion to be inherently dangerous, Collins insisted that any pet can behave unpredictably. He doesn't feel that Kitty is a threat to his 5- and 1-year-old boys or 3-year-old daughter.

Another neighbor, April Osborne, also defended Kitty: "I think they should be able to keep it, anything can turn on you. That thing is a big old baby."

Barry Collins purchased Kitty three years ago, when he was a 5-pound cub at a flea market. Collins said he obtained a state permit to bring the lion into Kentucky and a license to keep it in Floyd County. But now that Kitty's purr has reached a deafening moan and his girth has exceeded 400 pounds, some Floyd County residents want him gone.

The only way to kick Kitty out of the neighborhood is with a county ordinance, said Floyd County Attorney Keith Bartley. "I'm sure it is a big pet to the owners," Bartley said, "but the one time something goes wrong with a cat that size, someone's going to be really hurt or dead."

The Collins' also have a dozen dogs and a lizard. They said all their pet purchases were a way to save the animals from harm or abuse. "If I can save one I will," Melissa Collins said.

Bartley said he's working with a local veterinarian to find a zoo or a wildlife sanctuary where the lion could be placed.

"It's not just about protecting those people living in Melvin, it's also about the lion itself," said Bartley. "If they love that lion, I don't believe they'd want it to live its entire life in a dog cage on a concrete pad."

Barry Collins said that if the ordinance fails, he may put up a privacy fence that would give Kitty more space to roam. For now, he is trying to sway the vote of county officials by encouraging friends and supportive neighbors to speak up for Kitty. "I'm going to fight it all I can," he said, adding that he would appeal the vote if the ordinance passed. "I'm going to drag it out as far as I can."
Highlighted In This Issue:

- KS Governor Signs Ban Into Law
- MD May Ban Exotic Animals As Pets
- KY Family Fights To Keep Pet Lion